

Draft

Bulgarian CEI Presidency Economic Forum

"The Challenges the CEI SMEs are Facing and the Economic Recovery of the Region"

Venue:	<i>Grand Hotel Millennium Sofia, bul. "Vitosha" 89B, Sofia</i>
7th November 2022 (Monday)	
14:00-15:00	Registration & Welcome coffee
15:00-15:40	Economic Forum Opening Mr. Nikolay Milkov , Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Alexandar Pulev , Minister of Innovations and Growth Mr. Roberto Antonione , CEI Secretary General Mr. Boyko Takov , Executive Director, BSMEPA
	Panel of Foreign Ministers and Special Guest Supporting Ukraine and addressing the wider economic consequences of the war in the CEI region Participation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs from CEI member states
15:40-16:25	First panel Talent as a source of competitive SMEs and economic development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and retaining people to serve higher-value industries. • Returning native talent from more developed economies. • Improving SME employees' ability and abilities.
16:25-17:10	Second panel Strategic capital access—future building blocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent geopolitical developments: what next for SMEs? • Traditional investment in non-traditional development. • Attracting strategic investors with better-added value—what has been done and what has to be done
17:10-18:10	Third panel The panel will discuss the future of small and medium-sized enterprises through the lens of anything as a service. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitalization might be a cost-effective, qualitative transition that is also secure for SMEs. • Sharing economy: who benefits from it? • Creating habitats for the growth of creative start-ups.